Guidelines to regulate environment clearance for projects

1109. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have prepared new guidelines to regulate process of getting environmental clearance for major projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A draft notification on the revised environmental clearance process has been published on 15.09.2005 inviting suggestions/objections from the public before making necessary amendments in the existing Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994.

Aravali Notification Act, 1992

1110. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aravali Notification Act, 1992 prohibits any activity other than tree plantation in the area;

(b) what is the present status of construction activities in the area; and

(c) what steps are taken to restore the greenery in the area which is supposed to be a green buffer for Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Aravali Notification dated 7th May, 1992 prohibits carrying on of the following processes and operations, from the date of the Notification, except with the prior permission of the Government, in the areas, specified in the Notification in relation to Gurgaon District of the State of Haryana and the Alwar District of the State of Rajasthan.

(i) Location of any new industry including expansion/modernization;

(ii) (a) All new mining operations including renewal of mining leases:

(b) Existing mining leases in Sanctuaries/National Parks and areas covered under Project Tiger; and/or

(c) Mining done without permission of the competent Authority;

(iii) Cutting of trees;

(iv) Construction of any clusters of dwelling units, farms houses, sheds, community centers, information centers and any other activity connected with such construction (including roads, a part of any infrastructure relating thereto);

(v) Electrification (laying of new transmission lines).

(b) As per the information obtained from Government of Rajasthan, in Alwar District only construction activities permissible under the Aravali Notification, 1992 are being allowed with prior environmental clearance. However, in the Gurgaon District some unauthorized constructions violating the Notification have been reported.

(c) The Government of Rajasthan have reported that afforestation is being done to restore the greenery of the area. In the Gurgaon District, greenery was restored under Aravali project implemented between 1990 to 1999.

World bank study report on resource depletion

1111. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent World Bank study entitled "Where is the Wealth of Nations". highlighting *inter-alia* that resource depletion and surging population growth are draining the net savings of the Third World Countries and could cripple the future generations; and

(b) if so, the details of specific areas of concern expressed by the World Bank and fresh steps initiated to check damage to the environment and futher depletion of natural resources while taking decisions for executing various development projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal regarding environmental clearance of project

1112. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared any proposals received from Andhra Pradesh regarding environmental clearance for various projects; and